Invitation

PLANT PROPAGATION WORKSHOP

Learn about GROWING seed and cuttings from local trees, shrubs and ground covers…. we’ll cover potting mixes, containers, methods & aftercare

When: Sunday 31st January 2016, 10am-12 noon
Where: 331 Reids Way, Wooragee
Bring: secateurs, hat, sunscreen, water bottle, boots.

RSVP to Fleur by 24th January
Phone: 5728 2375 or phone/text 0427 282 377
or email Fleur: info@candlebarkretreat.com.au

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Do you have email available? Please consider getting this newsletter electronically.
You will be more environmentally friendly
GORSE CONTROL REBATE AVAILABLE

The Wooragee Landcare Group was successful in securing funding to support the control and management of the noxious weed Gorse. This grant enables the group to offer rebates to Landcare Group members for expenses incurred in the management of Gorse. Wooragee Landcare is able to offer support, information, education and facilitation of a control program designed for your property where they can fund up to 50% of necessary control methods. Wooragee Landcare is asking for any Landholders who would like assistance with Gorse control to contact Cathryn Mahon.

To arrange collection of the Phostoxin contact Cathryn Mahon on 0499 004 924 or email cathryn@southerncrossvermin.com

*All fumigants are Schedule 7 poisons therefore an Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) is required to purchase them. Schedule 7 poisons can only be used by holder of an ACUP or under the direct supervision of an ACUP holder.

RABBIT CONTROL - PHOSTOXIN AVAILABLE

The group has some canisters of Phostoxin available to group members FREE for the control of rabbits and fox dens. Now is the ideal time to fumigate rabbit warrens with numbers starting to increase again. I have been seeing many young rabbits around lately and it will not be long before these are producing litters as well.

To arrange collection of the Phostoxin contact Cathryn Mahon on 0499 004 924 or email cathryn@southerncrossvermin.com

Wooragee Landcare Group Committee

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Mary Prowse 03 5728 7313
Jerry Alexander 0427 352 837
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Fleur Stelling TBA
Project Manager:  Alandi Durling 0428 211 008
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Propagating our locally native plants

Have you ever grown your own plants from seed or cuttings? It can be a simple and very rewarding thing to do – and it’s cheap! Most of our plants – trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses can be easily started from seed (and also cuttings or division) in containers. You can use recycled containers (hiko trays or tubes) but make sure they have internal ridges to prevent roots circling and that encourage roots to grow downwards. It is also a good idea to wash pre-used containers with a disinfectant to prevent passing on root diseases.

What potting mix to use for seeds? It is best to avoid using soil as it can lose its structure in a pot and won’t drain freely – it can also contain weed seeds and root diseases. Find a potting mix designed for native plants and it is worth paying a little extra for the quality assured by the Standards Australia logo. You can also buy a cutting mix (which is very freely draining), or make your own mix: 1 part coarse river sand: 1 part perlite: 1 part peat moss. When growing to revegetate your property, it is really important to maintain the local genetic diversity – use seed sourced from (or take cuttings from) numerous parent plants. This increases the chances that some of your plants will survive extreme future events like severe droughts and heatwaves.

When to propagate? For our local species, the best time to propagate is summertime (January and February) and at least 4 months ahead of when you would like to plant. You will need seed or cuttings, a good potting mix, pots, water to keep moist, and shade. While shade is essential, you do not need a humid plastic or glass greenhouse when propagating over summer. Most species will germinate when temperatures are between 10 and 25 degrees, and germination usually takes a few weeks.

How to sow seed? For annuals and perennial herbaceous plants, broadcasting the seed into a seed tray and later transplanting into pots works well. For shrubs and trees it is best to direct sow into pots, and then trim off excess seedlings with scissors. This is to ensure the best kink-free root system possible. When transplanting tiny seedlings, it is very easy to distort the root system and cause permanent damage (j-roots) and while the seedlings may look fine on the surface, they can be unstable when planted out and die prematurely.

What about seed dormancy? While many seed needs no treatment (eg. most eucalypts, daisies, grasses) some with hard seedcoats (like wattles and bush-peas) require softening of the seedcoat for germination to occur. The easiest way is to boil a saucepan of water and then switch off the heat and add the seed, allowing them to soak in the cooling water for a few hours. Strain the seed with a kitchen sieve before sowing. Other seed (like Bursaria) needs sowing immediately after collecting the seed (March/April) when temperatures are lower and day lengths are shortening.

And cuttings? You can grow a clone of a plant by cuttings, and so it is particularly important to collect cuttings from at least 15 parent plants if growing plants for revegetation (to maintain genetic diversity). You’ll need secateurs and a moistened plastic bag – and early morning over mid to late summer is generally the best time to collect. Cuttings are generally good if the tip can be gently bent without breaking (too brittle) or staying bent (too soft). Take cuttings around 5cm to 15cm long and remove two thirds of the lower leaves (remove any flowers or flower buds too). Cuttings need to be kept moist and you can improve the strike rate by sitting the containers on bottom heat, or covering the top with plastic. You can try dipping the cuttings in a rooting hormone which may also improve success.

And before planting out? Make sure you acclimatise your plants before planting them out. This means removing them from shade and allowing them to harden up naturally to frost, and reducing the water you give them. The best size for a seedling to plant is when the root to shoot ratio is roughly even and ideally no more than 1:2.
2016 Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus, (RHDV) Boost Road Show  
January 18\textsuperscript{th} 2016 at Tallangatta and January 19\textsuperscript{th} 2016 at Springhurst.

North East CMA, Mitta to Murray Blackberry Action Group and Springhurst and Byawatha Hills Landcare Group are pleased to welcome Dr Tarnya Cox, project leader & research officer from NSW DPI. Orange to the region to present the 2016 RHDV Boost Road Show.

The Road Show sessions will cover:
- Invasive Animals CRC Boost project - RHDV (pathogenic calicivirus)
- Integrated rabbit management
- Landholder participation in the RHDV Boost project
- Where to next — the future release of a new strain of RHDV

Tarnya Cox is leading the national scientific research campaign to reduce the devastating agricultural and environmental impact of rabbits. She will also discuss current research to find a new strain of Calicivirus and efforts to improve the biological control of rabbits.

John Matthews, Biosecurity Manager, Established Invasive Animals, Victorian Government Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources will also join the Road Show sharing years of practical rabbit management expertise.

**Tallangatta**  
Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} January, 7:30pm,  
Tallangatta Bowling Club,  
Akuna Avenue, Tallangatta  
*Light supper provided.*

**Springhurst**  
Tuesday 19\textsuperscript{th} January, 9.30am,  
Springhurst Hall, Anzac Road,  
Springhurst  
*Light lunch provided.*

**RSVP for Tallangatta event Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} January to:**  
Doris Razeng Ph. 0499 977 471 email dprazeng@bigpond.com or Jim de Hennis Ph. 0408 978 847 email jimdehennis@gmail.com

**RSVP for Springhurst event Friday 15\textsuperscript{th} January to:**  
Alandi Durling Ph. 0428 211 008 email alandi.durling@landcarevic.net.au
To celebrate the beauty of North East Victoria and Wooragee in particular Wooragee Landcare would like to invite adults, primary and secondary students to participate in a photographic competition.

Separate sections for primary school, secondary school and adult competitors

- **Landscape**
- **Biodiversity (Flora and Fauna)**
- **Human Interest**

*Human Interest: Photos of farming, people enjoying the outdoors etc*

**A SPECIAL PRIZE FOR PHOTOS TAKEN IN THE WOORAGEE VALLEY**

**PRIZE MONEY EACH SECTION**
First $100.00  Second $75.00  Third $50.00

*Entries close 15th August 2016 - Entry Fee $2.00 per photo*
*Winners announced September 2016*

For further information contact Maureen Cooper
Email: brigadoon.99@bigpond.com Ph 03 5728 1311
BURGOIGEE CREEK MASTER CLASS SERIES
MOSAIC WORKSHOP 101

If you have always wondered what it takes to make a stunning outdoor mosaic installation, this is your opportunity to find out!

DATE: 17 January 2016
TIME: 10:00am -3:00pm
ADDRESS: 1 Ryan Ln. Beechworth
COST: $30 (materials); BYO lunch to share; BYO Drinks, work gloves
RSVP: Debbie Tully (03) 5728-2683
By 15/1/16: 10 places available.

Continuing the successful 2014-2015 ‘Master Class’ series of workshops, Burgoigee Creek Landcare is very pleased to offer this introduction to Mosaic art. (We hope we might see some examples of Garden Art included in future Giant Pumpkin and Harvest Festivals).

Debbie will be guiding us through the technique of Mosaic art; participants will design and create their own garden paver to take home.

Places are limited, so if you are interested contact Debbie now to secure your place. Please bring your own drinks, hat, and protective gloves. A contribution towards a shared lunch (salad platter, fruit, nibbles etc.) is also welcome. 1 Ryan lane is off Fighting Gully road.

Look out for the next ‘Master Class’ which will be on tomato sauces and pickles!
Community Landcare and Agriculture Leadership Program: 2016

Rural Australia needs strong leadership- will you accept the challenge?

By enrolling in this seven day program, specifically designed for those working in the Agriculture and Natural Resource Management sectors, you will:

- Develop your personal leadership skills
- Gain practical knowledge of innovative agribusiness and NRM practices
- Increase your network of leaders in the field

This highly acclaimed program includes skills workshops in leadership, communication, community capacity building, leading change, decision making and networking. You will hear from high-profile guest speakers, and over a two day field trip visit innovative and entrepreneurial projects.

What past participants say..

“Extremely well run and valuable course”
“I now have a broader awareness of what leadership is”
“Good mix of theory and stories that I don’t think you would get anywhere else”

For further information and to enrol, please contact

Kelly Behrens
Sustainable Agriculture Project Officer
North East Catchment Management Authority
Phone: 02 6043 7627 M: 0427 351 411
Kelly.behrens@necma.vic.gov.au
Program commences in March 2016
Do you have an interesting story, web site or advertisement you would like to place in the Wooragee Landcare Newsletter?

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Due to the rising costs of printing and postage the Wooragee Landcare Community Newsletter will be sent 4 times a year to all Non-Landcare members in Wooragee and Woolshed that currently receive the newsletter via the post.